



Ludivina, her sister Pasquela and brother Cipriano using the newly-installed water pump at their home in Timor Leste.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE ARE VITAL FOR THE SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

OUR CHALLENGE

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is a basic human right and is critical for the survival, development and wellbeing of children and their communities. However, estimates from UNICEF and the World Health Organisation show that worldwide, **663 million people lack access to safe drinking water**. Children are severely impacted with over **1,300 children aged under five dying every day from diarrhoea** caused by unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene. Women and children, particularly adolescent girls, are affected by inadequate access to clean water and safe sanitation, for in many countries they are responsible for spending large parts of the day finding and fetching water for their families. Girls often drop out of school due to the lack of private and decent sanitation facilities at schools.

Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is a recognised priority under the new **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Goal 6**. Targets include: by 2030, achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all; achieving access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

OUR RESPONSE

Recognising the importance of universal access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and good hygiene practise, Plan International's rights-based approach guides and empowers marginalised communities to take the lead in improving their water, sanitation and hygiene conditions. Through the use of context-specific strategies and approaches, we support communities to build sustainable community-managed water and sanitation services. This incorporates good hygiene practices, including hand washing, sanitary toilet use and environmental cleanliness.

One key approach that we use is **Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)**, which focuses on engaging the whole community to take the lead to improve their own sanitation conditions using their skills and resources, and providing guidance to achieve this. Other key WASH approaches that

we utilise include: **hygiene campaigns, sanitation marketing, community-managed water supply and participatory approaches.**

We also understand that if communities are to be supported in the long term to achieve sustainable WASH outcomes, their governments must be at the forefront of WASH activities. Each of our WASH programs work with government at various levels, including supporting and influencing government WASH agendas and policies.

Improving gender and disability responsiveness of our WASH programs is central to the approach. This includes building on and going beyond disability accessible infrastructure and women's representation on WASH committees, to include more strategic benefits such as women and men having more equal influence over WASH-related decision-making and

More than 2.4 billion people worldwide do not have access to adequate sanitation, one in three of the world's population.

United Nations

responsibility.

OUR PROGRAMS – AFRICA, ASIA & PACIFIC

Plan International Australia support its Plan International Country Office partners' WASH programs to ensure the right to water and sanitation can be realised by all women, men, girls and boys in marginalised communities.

WASH is the second largest thematic program area for Plan International Australia with a portfolio value of over **AUD \$23 million for 2013-2018**. Currently, we collaborate with Plan International Country Offices to support 10 WASH programs in eight countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific

(Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Zimbabwe). Plan International Australia receive grant support from a variety of institutional donors including the **Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)** and **UNICEF**.

Water for Women Fund: following the successful completion of four projects as part of DFAT's second Civil Society WASH Fund, We have been awarded a further AUD \$8.7 million to implement two larger-scale WASH programs over a five-year period (FY18-22) in **Indonesia and the Solomon Islands** as part of DFAT's Water for Women Fund. These two projects are anticipated to benefit **465,000 people**.

These beneficiaries are women, men, girls and boys in disadvantaged and remote communities. The program utilises a multi-pronged approach, including strong gender and social inclusion elements and government-led WASH activities to bring about lasting WASH improvements in households, schools and communities.

Our WASH portfolio also consists of other small and large scale programs across six countries: **Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe**. These programs are partly funded through the Australian Non-Government Cooperation Program (ANCP) and funds from the Australian public. In line with the overall approach, these programs work to increase the number of people in each country who have access to sustainable and improved water and sanitation facilities and habitually practise good hygiene behaviours that reduce their risk of diseases linked to poor water and sanitation.

An example of our work is the Integrated Health, Nutrition and WASH project in Laos. This project aims to achieve reduced stunting in girls and boys aged 0-23 months, better nutrition among women in 48 communities, and access to improved WASH services for more than 30,000 people in over 80 villages by working with municipal and district level government to plan, monitor and respond to community needs for improved health and WASH services.

Plan International invests over €42 million globally in WASH activities, supporting over 835,000 households to improve their sanitation facilities

OUR KEY PARTNERS

Our primary partners are the Plan International Country Offices in developing countries where WASH programs are based. Within our WASH programs, partnerships with national and local governments are a central element. These partnerships are critical to sustainability and seek ongoing commitment and action by government to improve WASH for communities that fall within their jurisdictions. Ongoing partnerships with government can take different forms including helping to build the WASH capacity of government agencies, strengthening institutional linkages between the national and lower levels of government and action and budget planning to sustain WASH outcomes beyond the life of programs.

The WASH programs also collaborate with local civil society organisations, private companies and social enterprises and help to establish small-scale sanitation enterprises and associations. These collaborations bring complementary skills to the implementation of our programs and build foundations to sustain and replicate the improvements achieved through our work globally.

As an accredited NGO with the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) many of PIA's projects are supported by Australian Aid through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program' (ANCP).

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

The following are some examples of the outcomes achieved within the Plan International Australia WASH portfolio:

- In Indonesia, Malawi, Pakistan and Vietnam more than 1.1 million people are now practising good hygiene behaviours on a regular basis and over 1.2 million people have gained access to improved household sanitation as part of the Civil Society WASH Fund.
- In Myanmar 100% of project villages have achieved Open Defecation Free status meaning that everyone (4,284 people) in eight villages is using a toilet
- In Papua New Guinea the government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has been facilitated to develop its first every plan and Strategy for the delivery of WASH services across the province.

OUR IMPACT

Sustainability is key to ensuring that our WASH programs have a long lasting positive impact on the communities that we work with. A review of the CLTS program outcomes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone in 2013 found that two years after the project had been completed 87% of the 4,960 households visited still had functioning latrines.

OUR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Our WASH program prioritises investments in research and innovation. Continuous learning and improvement is key to ensuring that WASH activities achieve effective and sustainable outcomes for the communities that we work with.

Gender and WASH Monitoring Tool (GWMT)

We have invested in developing the GWMT, to enable local program staff and government partners to explore and monitor gender relations with women and men as part of WASH related activities. Over the past few years, hawse have supported WASH project teams and government partners in Indonesia, Laos, the Solomon Islands, Vietnam and Zimbabwe to locally adapt, pilot and use the GWMT. The GWMT is also being take up more widely and we have provided advice and training on its use to seven Plan International Country Offices across Africa and Asia, which has proved to be very successful.

Low-cost latrine design in Timor-Leste

With the aim of improving the uptake of durable and hygienic toilets in rural Timor-Leste, we collaborated with the Timor-Leste Country Office to develop four low-cost latrine designs for the Australian Government funded BESIK program. The design process built on previous local experience and included input from rural Timorese into toilet designs, prototype construction and product feedback. The BESIK program

constructs examples of these toilets in Bobonaro District and trains local masons on the construction.

OUR FUTURE PRIORITIES

Over the coming years we will work together with our partners in-country to see the following key developments within the WASH programs:

- Utilise the CLTS approach to support 68,000 people and more than 10 schools to build and maintain safe, hygienic toilets in Laos, Myanmar, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe.
- Increase access to improved water supplies among over 15,000 people in Laos, Myanmar and Zimbabwe.
- Increase the knowledge of improved hygiene practices among 47, 000 people in Laos, and Zimbabwe.
- Deliver Water for Women Fund projects in Indonesia and the Solomon Islands, reaching over 450,000 people and over 40 schools with improved WASH services and collaborate with academic institutes on research exploring gender, climate change and approaches to community management in these projects.

Institutional Donors

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